IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle ~~which includes~~, the electronic key system comprising a control apparatus ~~(14)~~ mounted on ~~an actual~~ the vehicle ~~(100A)~~ and an electronic key ~~(12)~~, wherein

the control apparatus includes a transmitting antenna,

the electronic key permits ~~for transmitting~~ transmission of a response signal ~~(Sa)~~ in response to receiving ~~of~~ a request signal ~~(Sr)~~ transmitted from said control apparatus ~~(14)~~ through ~~a~~ the transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ and

said transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~ is installed in the proximity of the center of said ~~actual~~ vehicle ~~(100A)~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~ is installed at a position within a range from an upper portion of the vehicle to a lower portion of the vehicle, and within a range from a point at one fourth of a wheel base to another point at three fourths of ~~a~~ the wheel base ~~(154)~~ with reference to the center ~~(150a)~~ of a front wheel ~~(150)~~ of said ~~actual~~ vehicle ~~(100A)~~.

Claim 3 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

where said ~~actual~~ vehicle ~~(100A)~~ includes a seat ~~(140)~~ on which a user is to be seated,

said transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~ is installed in the proximity of a front portion of said seat ~~(140)~~.

Claim 4 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle ~~which~~ includes a control apparatus ~~(14)~~ mounted on ~~an actual~~ the vehicle ~~(100B)~~ and an electronic key ~~(12)~~, wherein

the control apparatus comprises a transmitting antenna,

the electronic key permits transmission of ~~for transmitting~~ a response signal ~~(Sa)~~ in response to receiving of a request signal ~~(Sr)~~ transmitted from said control apparatus ~~(14)~~ through ~~a~~ the transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~, ~~characterized in that~~

said ~~actual~~ vehicle ~~(100B)~~ includes a seat ~~(140)~~ ~~provided for~~ which permits opening and closing movement ~~for being seated by a user~~ and a locking apparatus ~~(64)~~ for locking said seat ~~(140)~~ ~~so as not to be opened~~ to prevent opening of the seat until a unlocking instruction is supplied thereto; ~~that~~

said control apparatus ~~(14)~~ includes ~~means for verifying~~ a verifier which verifies the response signal ~~(Sa)~~ and a driver which outputs ~~outputting~~ an unlocking instruction to said locking apparatus ~~(64)~~ when it is discriminated that the response signal ~~(Sa)~~ is a request from a legal user; and ~~that~~

said transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~ is installed on said seat ~~(140)~~ or in the proximity of said seat ~~(140)~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~ is provided on a left side face of said seat ~~(140)~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

~~where at least~~ the vehicle comprises a seat handle ~~(144)~~ which is used to manually open or close said seat ~~(140) by manual operation~~, and is provided around a rear portion of said seat ~~(140)~~, and

said transmitting antenna ~~(72)~~ is installed on said seat handle ~~(144)~~.

Claim 7 (new). An electronic key system for a vehicle, the electronic key system comprising a control apparatus mounted on the vehicle and an electronic key, wherein

the control apparatus includes a transmitting antenna,

the electronic key permits transmission of a response signal in response to receiving a request signal transmitted from said control apparatus through the transmitting antenna, and

said transmitting antenna is installed on the vehicle in a location which provides a transmission range which includes at least a space occupied by a vehicle operator during vehicle use.

Claim 8 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 7 wherein the transmitting antenna is installed on the vehicle in a location which provides a transmission range including the entire vehicle.

Claim 9 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 7 wherein initiation of operation of the vehicle is permitted only when the electronic key is within the transmission range, and wherein a warning is provided when the electronic key is moved out of the transmission range during operation of the vehicle.

Claim 10 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 7 wherein the control apparatus and the electronic key communicate at regular intervals during operation of the vehicle.

Claim 11 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 10 wherein a warning is issued by the control apparatus if communication between the control apparatus and the electronic key fails for a predetermined length of time.

Claim 12 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim1 wherein

said transmitting antenna is installed on the vehicle in a location which provides a transmission range including at least a space occupied by a vehicle operator during vehicle use.

Claim 13 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim1 wherein

said transmitting antenna is installed on the vehicle in a location which provides a transmission range including at least a space occupied by a vehicle operator during vehicle use,

initiation of operation of the vehicle is permitted only when the electronic key is within the transmission range, and

a warning is provided when the electronic key is moved out of the transmission range during operation.

Claim 14 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 1 wherein the control apparatus and the electronic key communicate at regular intervals during operation of the vehicle.

Claim 15 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 14 wherein a warning is issued by the control apparatus if communication between the control apparatus and the electronic key fails for a predetermined length of time.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring

ABSTRACT

A vehicle-use electronic key system ~~comprising~~ includes a control unit [[(14)]] mounted on a real car [[(100A)]], and an electronic key [[(12)]] for sending a response signal [[(Sa)]] on receiving a request signal [[(Sr)]] sent from the control unit [[(14)]] via a transmission antenna [[(72)]], the antenna [[(72)]] being installed near the middle of the real car [[(100A)]]. Specifically, when a line segment (wheel base) [[(154)]] connecting the center [[(150a)]] of a front wheel [[(150)]] to the center [[(152a)]] of a rear wheel [[(152)]] is assumed, the transmission antenna [[(72)]] is installed in any location within a range from the upper part to the lower part of the real car [[(100A)]] within a range from a 1/4 point [[(P1)]] to a 3/4 point [[(P2)]] of the wheel base [[(154)]] with the center [[(150a)]] of the front wheel [[(150)]] as a reference.